Online Shopping

The following tips are to help promote a safe, secure online shopping experience:
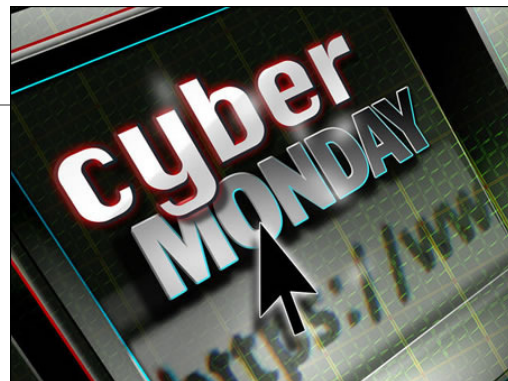
- **Secure your computer** with the latest security updates installed, anti-virus updates, and firewall.

- **Upgrade your browser** to the most recent version available with the highest level of security available.

- **Ignore pop-up messages** with a pop-up blocker.

- **Secure your transactions** by looking for the "lock" icon on the browser's status bar and be sure "https" appears in the website's address bar before making an online purchase.

- **Use strong passwords** for online accounts with at least eight characters, with numbers, special characters, and upper and lower case letters.

- **Avoid public computers or public wireless.** Public computers may contain malicious software that steals your credit card information when you place your order.

- **Make payments securely** by using credit card rather than debit card.

- **Limit your online shopping to merchants you know and trust.**

- **Keep a record.** Keep a record of your online transactions, and copies of every e-mail you send or receive from the seller.